



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB0882

February 17, 2026

TO: Members of the Health Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 882 – Consumer Health Information - Termination Date and Mandatory Funding for the State's Consumer Health Information Hub - Repeal

POSITION: Favorable

Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** HB 882.

Section 20–2204 of the Health Article designates The University of Maryland Herschel S. Horowitz Center for Health Literacy as the State's Consumer Health Information Hub. Per statute, the Hub promotes and ensures public access to accurate, consistent, evidence-based, plain-language information in preferred languages to inform decisions about health, safety, and social services benefits. Under current law, the hub was required to be funded through and would sunset in 2026. HB 882 would make the Hub permanent in state law and allow it to be funded as funding is available. The has been instrumental in advancing plain language and health literacy practices statewide, including in Baltimore City.

Baltimore City's Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC), a multi-sector group convened by the Baltimore City Health Department to identify and address health priorities, has used the Hub's tools to revise its website and communications materials in order to ensure they are accessible to both community members and professionals. Additionally, the LHIC has participated in health literacy and plain language trainings provided by the Hub, which has strengthened the LHIC's ability to provide accessible information to residents seeking to make informed decisions about their health.

The Hub has served as a valuable resource for the Baltimore City Health Department and LHIC. As such, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 882.